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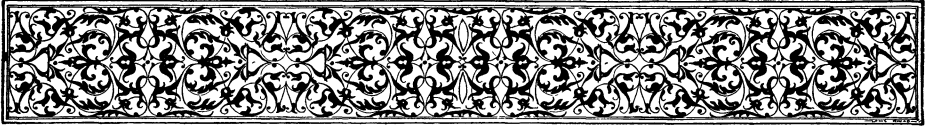
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SIR PURDON CLARKE

SIR PURDON CLARKE retires from the Directorship of the Museum after nearly five years of active service at one of the distinctive periods in its history. During this time the collections of the Museum have increased to a remarkable extent in consequence of careful purchases along well-defined lines and by the aid of the gifts of its friends; its endowment has been greatly increased through the munificent benefactions of John Stewart Kennedy, Frederick C. Hewitt, and others; its buildings have increased in area and in usefulness through additions and judicious rearrangement; and its prestige in the community has been augmented by a policy of friendly relations and liberality.

During these years Sir Purdon's keen interest in and wide knowledge of the various branches of art and industry gained in a busy life of devotion to his calling since his entrance into the National Art Training Schools in 1862 and during his career in various departments of the government service before coming to New York, have been brought to bear upon many of the problems that have arisen in the Museum. His resources have ever been freely placed at the disposal of those, also, who sought them for their own ends.

His infectious interest in others and in other things has produced a spirit of museum hospitality which has had much to do with the reciprocal interest of the public, the artist and the artisan, so characteristic of the period of his service.

His concern especially in the general

cause of education in art and in the industrial arts was sound and catholic and during his incumbency of the Directorate the work of the Museum in this direction has developed into well-defined lines of usefulness.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Museum held June 24th, a letter from the Director, Sir C. Purdon Clarke, was presented by the President, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, reading as follows:

I asked my doctor to state his opinion respecting my proposed return to New York, and although he considers that I have sufficiently recovered from the troublesome complaint for which he has been treating me during the last year to resume my work in New York, he is decidedly opposed to the idea of a continued residence in America, especially during the winter season. I beg, therefore, to place in your hands my resignation.

The resignation was accepted by the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: That the resignation of Sir Purdon Clarke be accepted to take effect July 1, 1910.

RESOLVED: That in accepting the resignation of Sir Caspar Purdon Clarke as Director, the Trustees of The Metropolitan Museum of Art desire to congratulate him upon the degree to which his health has been restored and to express their regret that that restoration is not sufficient to warrant continued residence in America during the winter season.

By his geniality and kindly manner, as well as by his broad artistic sympathies, he has endeared himself to a large and constantly increasing circle of friends not only in our own city but throughout the whole United States. His long and varied museum experience in Europe and the Far East, which was crowned with the directorship of the famous Victoria and Albert Museum in London, better known perhaps as the South Kensington Museum, a position which he resigned to take the directorship of our own Metropolitan Museum of Art, made his services of special value to us, and his sympathy with all kinds of artistic development, modern as well as ancient, and notably with industrial art, has helped to give our Museum the breadth of development which it has manifested during the last five years in which he has held office;

FURTHER RESOLVED: That Sir Purdon's full salary as Director be continued for the year following his resignation, that is, until June 1, 1911, and that thereafter he receive salary at the rate of \$5,000 per annum;

FURTHER RESOLVED: That he be requested to continue his connection with the Museum by accepting the position of Honorary European Correspondent of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

THE sentiment of the American public generally is probably voiced in the follow-

ing expressions, which we quote from articles in two of our New York papers.

OF the multitude that annually visits the Metropolitan Museum, an elect minority, the students, will learn with especial regret of the retirement of the director. The state of Sir Purdon Clarke's health did not permit him to take that aggressive part in remodeling the Museum that was hoped for, but he did quietly effect an important and radical change: he improved the moral climate of the place. Where students had been regarded as intruders and foreign experts had been denied access to the cases, he introduced an atmosphere of positive courtesy and helpfulness, thus confirming a beneficent policy begun in the interregnum of Acting-Director Story. In a considerable degree Sir Purdon sacrificed himself to the social duties of his position, was absolutely accessible and untiringly serviceable even to casual inquirers. Possibly this was an excess of amiability, but it doubtless did much to create good will for the Museum.—THE EVENING POST.

It is gratifying to know that Sir Purdon's services will not be altogether withdrawn from the Museum. As honorary European correspondent, salaried, he will doubtless be able to advise the Trustees and their subordinates. His taste and his knowledge of the arts and crafts are exceptional.—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

